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THE STORY TELLER.

From the Knickerbocker Magazine.

Running the Gauntlet.
AN INCIDENT OF THE LAST PEACE WITH
GREAT BRITAIN.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "EASTERN LANDS," ETC.

A bright and beautiful Sunday morning dawned upon the town and harbor of Halifax. The waters were gently breaking upon the shores of George's Island, and both sides of the channel, a cooling breeze from the south-east was toying with the numberless streamers and flags that decorated the various vessels of the port, and the broad ensign of Great Britain, that were spread abroad to catch its breath from the flag-staffs of Citadel Hill, George's Island, Point Sandwich and the Half-moon battery; the bending arch of heaven presented a clear field of deep azure, unbroken by a single cloud, the sun, just lifting itself from its ocean bed, dazzling light along the waters, causing them to sparkle brighter than crystals with the reflection of its golden column; and gilding the spires and house-tops of the town, the vessels, and forts, and every thing is smiling upon, with glittering splendor. Every object that received again the light of day, seemed conscious that it was a time for rest and peace, so still and quiet, and in such happy keeping, was every thing around.

It was a May morning, in 1815. The war with the United States over, peace having been proclaimed but a short time previous—Two nations had again met in amity, and exchanged once more the terms of courtesy and friendship; and the tie which war had so rudely severed, was once more united. Yet during the very darkest period of the war of 1812-15, when the most bitter feelings of deadly enmity were aroused on either side; when little was exchanged between the two nations, but terms of defiance, taunts and reproaches: when they met not, save at the point of the bayonet, and before the cannon's mouth, where the crimson-stained turf, and the slippery deck, too plainly told that these interviews were bloody; even then the heart of an inveterate enemy was moved, and tears of sympathy were copiously shed, in mourning over the loss of one of the bravest heroes that ever contended for the glory and triumph of the star-spangled banner of our own dear country; the unfortunate but chivalric commander of the ill-fated Chesapeake—"Lawrence." Yes, to the eternal honor of the British nation—particularly the naval officers and subjects then resident at Halifax—he it recorded that they deemed themselves as brave and generous enemies; and to the latest days of the Republic, that action will ever be remembered with the kindest feelings of sincere gratitude.

It is well known that after the action between the Chesapeake and Shannon, in which Captain Lawrence was killed, and his vessel captured, the prize containing the prisoners were carried down to Halifax. As the Shannon, followed by the captured frigate passed Sanborn's light the telegraph at Point Sandwich, communicating with that upon Citadel Hill, announced to the inhabitants of Halifax, that a British frigate with a prize was coming up. The most unequivocal token of joy were manifested, salutes were prepared to fire as soon as they should enter the channel; brush and wood were collected to make bonfires, flags and streamers rose at every eminence; the military bands on shore together with those on board the men-of-war at anchor in the basin above, struck up "God save the King;" and "Rule Britannia;" and all along the shore, crowds upon crowds were collected, ready to receive them with huzzas and shouts of triumph; suddenly, and while they were yet gazing, the Shannon's ensign was lowered to half-mast, as was also that of the Chesapeake. Fear and consternation instantly usurped the place of joy and triumph. What had happened?—None could answer. The telegraph demanded an explanation, and there was a dead stillness among that mighty multitude. So immovably still stood the crowd, that the breaking of the tiny waves, kissing the edge of the shore at their feet, was heard distinctly as they eagerly watched a small ball of building rolling slowly up the mast of the frigate. For a moment, upon reaching its destination, it dropped against the mast; then as a breath of air lifted itself upon its wings, it spread out clear and free, and then it was whispered from one to another, with saddened feelings, that the commander of the Chesapeake had fallen in the conflict. Not a shout, now a single huzza, issued from one of that numbered crowd that had collected to rend the air with joyful acclamation. The name of Lawrence, associated with all that was brave and manly, was a familiar sound to their ears. They knew him through life as an unyielding and unsparring

omy; but his many virtues had won respect; but now that the touch of death had glazed those eyes which had been wont to sparkle with enthusiasm, when the sight waxed hottest, and stolen from that arm the sinewy strength that had made the flashing cutlass "tell," wherever it had struck, they wept for him as though their own navy had lost its brightest ornament.

Wrapped in the colors which in life he had bled to preserve unsullied, and in death he prayed that he might not be separated from, his remains were conveyed on shore, and buried with military and national honors. The ensigns of the vessels in the harbor, and also those upon the forts and batteries on shore were displayed at half-mast; minute-guns were fired: the corpse was borne to the grave by the oldest captains in the navy, then at Halifax; and every demonstration of public sympathy was manifested for their brave but unfortunate enemy. But I am digressing.

An hour had hardly elapsed, since daybreak, when a brig shot through the narrow channel that lies between Sanborn's light and that part of Point Sandwich on which stood the Half-moon Battery. Her helm was in the hands of her commander; by his side stood his mate, with a glass, minutely examining every object, as they came successively in sight. The sailors were dispersed about the yards and rigging, busily reducing sail, while a few were engaged at the bows in clearing the cable, and preparing to drop anchor. Impelled by the breeze which was then setting up the channel directly in favor, aided by the force of the current, the vessel rapidly passed the various forts and batteries along the shore, until nearly abreast of the southern extremity of George's Island when the sails were all taken in, the anchor slipped, and she swung round with her head toward the town, securely moored, awaiting to be boarded by the custom-house boat, which had already left the shore for that purpose.

"What brig is this?" enquired the naval officer as he touched the deck.

"The Growler, of Halifax, at your service, Sir," replied the commander, coming forward with a graceful air and a smile playing about his lips.

"Ah, indeed? Barnett and Company's craft, eh?"

"The same, Sir."

"And are you Captain Hecate?"

"I have that honor," replied the captain, with another smile, touching his hat at the same time although a sly twinkle in his eye almost seemed to cast a doubt upon the sincerity of his politeness.

"And so, Captain Hecate, your brig is a fast sailer?"

"The very best, sir. The Sentinel frigate tried a race with her off the harbor, the last time we went out, but she was soon left hull down. I'll put her against any craft that ever walked over the waters. She is a first-rate American built vessel, although now English property, and—"

"How's that?—how's that?" interrupted the officer, looking up from the paper, upon which he had been taking notes, probably of the appearance of the vessel: how's all that? "American built—English property," eh?"

"Just so, exactly," was the reply; "she was built during the war, a Marblehead; fitted out as a privateer upon the Merrimack, at Newburyport; went to sea; was captured on her first cruise, sent down to Halifax condemned, and bought by Barnett and Company, who fitted her out as a merchantman, put your humble servant in her as commander, and bade her 'God speed!'"

"Where are you from?"

"Up the Straits—from Malaga."

"Malaga, eh?" repeated the officer with some what of a tone of surprise; "so—so; and what passage had you home?"

"Thirty days."

"Very good," continued he, in a drawing tone, minutely down the conversation; "and pray what may your cargo be? I don't imagine that you may come home in ballast—eh?"

"By no means," replied the captain, laughing; "she is loaded to the water-line with wines, of almost every variety; and from that to the deck, the space is filled up with fruit of an excellent quality, I assure you."

"Indeed! Perhaps I may taste of it sooner than you think for. Do you intend selling your cargo at auction?"

"No; it is all engaged at private sale."

"The engagement will be canceled, I'm thinking, Captain Hecate; the hammer will knock our loading off, depend on it. Let me see your papers."

"The papers were brought, and while they were being examined, Captain Hecate thrust his hands in his pockets, and leaning against the long-board, between the masts, took a minute survey of the person of his guest, who was performing the functions of his office with an odd mixture of drollery and seriousness depicted upon his fine intelligent countenance. The head of

*It may be proper to state that one of the regulations of the old Navigation Act of Great Britain, forbade the importation of any article whatever by her colonies, from any foreign place, except through the mother country; consequently, all produce or merchandise, whether manufactured or in the crude state, must first be imported into Great Britain, and thence shipped to whatever place should be its ultimate destination. A breach of this law was punished with extreme severity.

the naval officer, and in fact his whole person, was indeed an admirable subject for the pencil of a Hogarth. By some misfortune, his eyes had become crossed, so that when he bent his head over his paper, one appeared to be peering it, while the other was quietly fixed upon the truck, at the summit of the flag staff, on George's Island. In addition to this, he had a pair of large bowed spectacles, resting upon the tip of his ruby nose, so very near the extreme edge, that it seemed as if the slightest motion would dash them off upon his sharply-pointed knees, which were now raised nearly parallel with a curiously carved chin. These spectacles had probably been originally sold as "silver bowed," but time and constant use had worn the lead off, in various places, so that they now presented the speckled appearance of a variegated hen.—On his head, covering a wig of thick, coarse hair, and shading a scanty pattern of red whiskers, which were straggling about in so many directions, that had they been soldiers, a drum and fife would have been necessary to call them together, rested a broad brimmed, tower-like palm-leaf hat, of such dimensions that it would have formed a spacious pavilion for a cortege composed of such beings as Gulliver met in Lilliput. His coat which was a faded blue, with a brass and cloth button placed alternately up and down in front, was buttoned close to his neck; his neither garments were formed from a kind of pepper-and-salt-mixture cloth, and his equipments were completed with a pair of thick heavy cowhide boots, which rose to his knees, upon the outside of his pantaloons. Thus habited, he remained seated upon the deck, patiently spelling out the Growler's papers; for from the trouble under which he appeared to labor, it was evident that he was not burdened with any superfluous erudition.

"So, Captain Hecate," he said, rising to his feet, consuming a space of nearly half an hour in arriving at a knowledge of the contents of the papers, so it seems that this brig is the Growler, Captain Hecate, last from Malaga, with a cargo of fruit consigned to Messrs. Barnett and Company, Halifax?"

"Quite right. Is there any flaw or inaccuracy in the papers that you have in your hands?"

"Oh, no; I was merely going to say that—Umph! Have you got a pinch of snuff about you?"

"I don't use it," replied Hecate, laughing.

"How unlucky!" replied the officer, suffering his sallow visage to fall so rapidly, that had it been a barometer, instead of a human countenance, the action would have created the most alarming apprehension; it is very unlucky indeed; don't your men use it, sir?"

"I can't say; you must inquire yourself."

An appeal was made to the whole crew, but without success, and he turned away, seemingly disappointed.

"Well no matter," he continued; "I was going to say, Captain Hecate, that this brig being American built, although now English property, and that—I really do wish you had a little snuff; do try, sir, and see if you can't obtain some for me. I really stand in very great want of it, believe me."

"I am not aware that there is a particle aboard and I am thankful for it," answered Hecate.

"Well, sir, have it your own way," continued the officer, a little touched; "but as for me I can't do without it, sir; no, nor I won't. Are you in any particular hurry, sir?"

"Hurry? No, not much."

"Had you just as lieve lay here for fifteen or twenty minutes longer, to oblige me?"

"Certainly; I have no particular desire to hurry up to the wharf; it being Sunday I cannot enter my vessel, or discharge my cargo; and so, to oblige you, I will lie here a little longer."

"Thank you, sir, thank you," said the officer, apparently very grateful; "and with your permission, I'll run over to the battery there on George's Island. You won't move while I'm gone?"

"Not a cable's length."

"Then I'll just sail over there, and get a pinch of snuff, and be right back. I'll come right back."

Captain Hecate could scarcely refrain from giving vent to a loud and hearty laugh; but he succeeded in suppressing his risibilities, and bowing the officer over the side, watched him until his boat grazed the shore of the Island, and then seating himself upon a coil of ropes, gave way to a burst of violent exclamation.

The officer was as good as his word. In fifteen minutes the painter of his boat was fastened to the brig's shrouds, and he came on board again with a most benign smile resting upon his unique countenance.

"How soon do you intend to haul up to the wharf, Captain Hecate?" was his first inquiry.

"As soon as the tide serves, which will be in about three hours," was the reply.

"Well, sir, I put a veto upon that; don't you move from this spot until you hear from me."

"Most certainly, sir, I shall not wait long for you," replied Hecate, somewhat offended at his preemptory tone.

"Well, then you will. Do n't stir one cable's length—only one cable's length—and the guns of the battery there will send you and your vessel dancing sky-high. Do try it once, only once, why can't you?"

"By what authority do you address me thus?" demanded Captain Hecate.

"By the best in the world. Do you know that your brig and whole cargo are forfeited?"

"No! For what?"

"For breaking the Navigation Act. How does that set? Wait until to-morrow and I'll seize your vessel; I would do it now, only it happens to be Sunday. What do you suppose I went to George's Island after eh?"

"For a pinch of snuff, as you said," said Hecate smiling.

"A pinch of snuff, eh? Ha! ha! ha! ha! laughed the little officer. "All fudge, Captain Hecate, I assure you. What do you suppose I wanted of snuff, eh? I see you don't understand trap; you ain't 'up to snuff'; I went to give orders to the commander of the battery there to bring his guns to bear upon your vessel; and if you moved in the slightest degree, to blow you to—Sancho! Good-bye, sir, good-bye; don't attempt to run off unless you wish to cut a horn-pipe through the air."

Captain Hecate remained watching the receding boat, until it shot in among the wharves of the town, and was lost to his sight; then turning he gave orders for hoisting out the boat, and having it manned; he then went below. In about fifteen minutes he came upon the deck again, and after speaking a few words apart to his mate, entered the boat, and seated himself in the stern sheets. The jovial reckless, and contented appearance which his countenance generally wore, had given place to an expression of anxiety and alarm, and he gave the command in a low tone.

"Give way, men!"

"Which way?"

"To the nearest landing."

A few long measured strokes sent the boat to the desired point, and Captain Hecate, stepping ashore, bade them secure the boat and wait his return.

A full hour had elapsed before he was seen again, and then he entered the boat, seated himself in the stern sheets, with a single wave of his hand, and was immediately rowed back to his vessel.

As he stepped on deck, he made a sign to his mate that he wished to speak with him; and the two descended to the cabin, the door was fastened, and they seated themselves at the table.

"Well, Carpenter, it seems that we've got into a scrape," said Captain Hecate.

"I supposed as much from the manner of the officer who boarded us. What's to pay?"

"Indeed I don't know what they'll let us off for, so I cannot say how much there is to pay, rejoined Hecate, laughing, "but this is certain, that having broken the Navigation Act, though unintentionally, our vessel, if we lie here until to-morrow morning, will be seized."

"Well do you intend to lie here and be seized?"

"Intend to lie here and be seized!" echoed Captain Hecate; "no! I am too old for that Mr. Barnett, whom I've just seen is coming aboard with one of his clerks about dusk, and then we are going to walk her out of Halifax harbor as quick as canvas will carry her."

"And what then?"

"Put into some American port, Boston or New York, in distress, and sell our cargo. Come upon the door and we'll go upon deck to put things in order for the attempt. Mind!—not a word to any person aboard, or the plan will be spoiled."

During the whole day the Growler remained in the same place where she had first anchored. For several hours the wind had been vacillating in various quarters, and now blowing steadily from the north-west, a quarter very favorable for the success of the proposed hazardous scheme as it would carry them straight out to sea, without once tacking or hauling. As night settled upon the waters, and darkness gradually grew denser, Captain Hecate, who was pacing the quarter-deck, became more anxious and impatient; his excitement was increased by the delay of his own, who had not yet appeared.

"Strange that they are not here," he muttered apart to Carpenter; "I cannot imagine why they absent themselves, when so much depends upon promptness and quick execution. What time is it?"

"Nine o'clock."

"At eight they were to have been aboard."

"How is the tide?"

"It is about turning."

"And we shall lose it through their means!"

Tarrying ashore when—Hark!—was not that the dip of oars? There, again!"

No, it was nothing—"

"I tell you it was; they're coming off; see there, that is a signal!" said Hecate, pointing to the upper-loft window of a store on the wharf, through which a light was streaming.

In a few moments a boat containing several persons was floating alongside, and a low voice hailed the brig:

"Growler ahoy! On board there!"

"Hush; not so loud, Mr. Barnett, unless you wish to draw the shot of the battery on George's Island," answered the voice of Captain Hecate.

"Ah! Hecate, is that you? Is every thing ready?"

"Yes, and has been these two hours."

"Well, don't grumble, my good fellow; there is time enough," rejoined Mr. Barnett; "Loring, jump up there, and I'll follow."

As soon as the two stood upon her deck a motion was made to the others in the boat, and turning the bows they moved noiselessly away. "Now put your brig before this fine breeze, Captain Hecate, and we'll walk off!" said Barnett, seating himself with his clerk at the stern of the brig. Everything having been previously prepared, it required but a short time to get under way, so that in less than fifteen minutes from the time Barnett made his appearance, she had left her rather disagreeable position under the guns of the battery, and was moving silently yet swiftly down, impelled by the flowing breeze that filled her belying sails, and borne on also by the tide which was setting outward, George's Island was passed in safety; the sails were trimmed, and a third of the distance between that battery, and Point Sandwich was already left behind, when a bright flash shot out from the embrasures of the island fort and a heavy piece of ordnance sent its startling report rolling over the waters, which was immediately answered by the guns on Citadel Hill.

"Discovered!" exclaimed Hecate; "and now there's no use for secrecy. Spread out upon the yards, there! Unfold every thing that looks like canvas! Ha! there's an answer from Point Sandwich; and by Jupiter! another from the Half-moon and Somboro's light!"

As he spoke, a gun from Point Sandwich, followed by others from the Half-moon and Somboro's light answered the signal, to plainly telling them that they were on the alert.

"We shall have hot work below," said Hecate; "we'll run out by the eastern channel, and so avoid being exposed between two fires, thereby placing both batteries on one side."

"See! they're telegraphing from Citadel Hill!" interrupted Barnett, springing up.

"So they are! by all that's holy!" answered Hecate. "Three lanterns in a triangle; number forty-three; Stop that brig! there it is as plain as the English language! Well, Mr. Barnett, shall we make an effort to save the brig and cargo, and run the gauntlet of the three heavy batteries, or shall we go back and surrender ourselves quietly up?"

"No, no, go on; save the brig at all hazards!" To add, if possible, to their already perilous position, the moon was just rising in all her queenly beauty, threatening to expose, by her light, the gallant vessel to yet greater danger.

Captain Hecate's eyes, when they were not engaged upon looking after the management of his vessel were intently fixed upon the fort at Point Sandwich, which his vessel was rapidly nearing. In coming down the channel, the brig had been keeping on the eastern side, hugging the Dartmouth shore all the way down, that being the farthest course that could be taken from the neighborhood of the forts. As they gradually drew nearer to Point Sandwich, Captain Hecate in vain endeavored to discover any signs of hostility; nor could he discern a single human figure. The fort rose upon the water's edge, in profound silence; the only sign of animation was the ensign of Great Britain, fluttering from the flag-staff. The brig had now arrived nearly abreast, and our captain was consoling himself with the idea that the vessel, by keeping close to the shore, had escaped the observation of those in the fort, when a bright flash from one of the heavy pieces, succeeded by a crash, and a skipping ball, convinced him that his hopes were fallacious.

"Brig ahoy! What brig is that?" cried an officer.

"The man that lisp a single word, I'll shoot as dead as George the Third!" said Hecate, drawing a pistol, addressing the crew.

"Brig ahoy, there! heave to!" shouted the officer, somewhat more peremptorily.

Not a word was returned in answer, and the brig's course was not stayed in the least.

"Brig there!—heave to, or we'll sink you!"

"Sink away!" shouted Hecate, snatching up the trumpet, answering the hail in a tone of derision.

His reply was followed by the discharge of the whole tier of guns. The balls rattled about his hull, and through the sails, but fortunately did no material damage. The vessel was now in a most critical position, for as she lay exposed by the light of the moon, which was shining, as it seemed to Captain Hecate, with tenfold brilliancy, a fair aim was offered to her opponents—Still he hesitated not for an instant. Seizing the helm with his own hand, he guided the brig directly onward toward outer entrance; and although the shots of both batteries, for the Half-moon had opened a cannonading, fell thick and fast around him, compelling him to receive a cross fire without being able to offer any defence, yet not for a moment did his mind conceive the thought of surrendering. Close to him, upon the quarter-deck, stood Mr. Barnett, his clerk, and the mate; while along the deck, the men, who had been lifted to enthusiasm by their captain's coolness amid danger, stood clustered in groups, ready to obey his next order at a second's notice, even though it should be to sail up and carry one of the batteries by assault.

"We'll go out through the eastern channel, by Dartmouth side," said Captain Hecate; "and, although we shall be obliged to receive the fire from Sanborn's light, yet by these means we shall avoid being placed in a cross fire again, between that and the Half-moon."

Mr. Barnett nodded, and then relapsed into silence, as they were now rapidly nearing the

Half-moon, and consequently its fire was becoming hotter. Exposed, however, as the brig had been, to this cross firing, no material damage had been done. Some little cutting up of the rigging and canvas, and a few shots in hull, were all the signs that she bore of her conflict. As the captain anticipated, when they came abreast of the Half-moon, he was again hailed, and ordered to heave to; but maintaining an unbroken silence and keeping steadily on, had the effect to draw the fire from a whole tier of guns.—Crash! came the shot again, through her rigging and spars, and in a trice, the maintop-gallant mast was flying into alivers, while those in the fort, seeing the effect produced, sent up a heartily and prolonged shout.

"Ay, yell away!" muttered Captain Hecate, who was not in the best of the humors at seeing his maintop-gallant mast splintered, you'd laugh if the Atlantic Ocean should sweep Halifax out to sea; and I wish I could find it out there! I'd return some of its warm acknowledgments with interest and principal!"

They had now gained the current of the outer channel, and were shooting rapidly through; but they had yet to receive the shot from the battery on Sanborn's light; and although the exposure would be for only a few minutes, yet having run thro' all and being crippled after having reached the sea, was a misfortune from which all fervently prayed they might escape. It would seem as if Fortune had espoused the side of this gallant vessel, and determined to carry her steadily through; for, after a few ineffectual shots from the Sanborn's battery, she was far out on the boundless ocean, free from further molestation, and as staunch and tight as ever. The broken top-gallant mast was soon replaced by a temporary spar; and the brig, after standing for some distance out, in an easterly direction, hauled her course, and bounded onward on her outward voyage.

After getting fairly in blue water, and seeing that things were shipshape, Captain Hecate proposed to Mr. Barnett and his clerk to leave the deck in charge of the mate, and spend an hour over a bottle of wine in the cabin. It required but little persuasion to induce them to acquiesce, and accordingly they were soon seated around the small circular table, indulging in the unrestrained freedom of convivial mirth.

"Gentlemen," said Captain Hecate, as he uncorked the third bottle, "allow me to give you a sentiment; May England be more successful in most of her undertakings, than her loyal subjects have been in endeavoring to catch our gallant bark."

Amid the applause of his companions, the toast was tossed off, while he continued.

"And also allow me to say, that when the lion in the coat of arms shall rouse itself in—"

"Brig ahoy!"

Down came Captain Hecate's clenched fist upon the table, with an emphasis that made the glasses jingle and rattle again with the concussion.

"There they are again! We haven't shaken 'em off yet!" exclaimed he, springing up the companion way, and upon deck, just as the second hail accompanied by the report of a heavy gun, fired to leeward, was borne to them over the waters from a large vessel lying a short distance off. One glance was sufficient assure him that it was a man-of-war frigate, of the largest class; and by the lanterns that illuminated her whole row of broadside guns, he perceived that they were manned and ready, and that resistance would be altogether useless. Seizing the speak-trumpet, therefore, he answered:

"Brig Growler, of Halifax."

"There from?—and where bound? and what's your cargo?"

"From Halifax into New York, with a cargo of sugars and coffee for the peace-market."

"Well, heave to, and we'll send a boat aboard."

As there was no alternative, Captain Hecate was forced to give the order for backing the topsails laying the brig to, until the boat should board them. He knew that if his papers were shown, instant capture must inevitably ensue; as with documents purporting him to be from Malaga to Halifax, he was, with all the sail his brig could carry, running directly away from Halifax, and had also replied to their hail that he was bound to New York. How should he produce the necessary clearance, in case it was demanded? how account for the absence of it? He knew not, and he therefore racked his ingenuity, in the hope that he might be able to discover some means by which to extricate himself, and escape without forfeiture, which most surely would be the consequence of detection. The moon, which a passing cloud had obscured for a few moments, now burst forth, throwing a flood of light upon the scene, and lighting up every portion of both vessels.

"The Sentinel! as sure as—"

He staid not to complete the sentence, but jumped down into the cabin, and communicated what he had just learned to his owner.

"I know her well, and her officers," said Mr. Barnett, leaning in his countenance; "and if you will only keep close here, leaving me to deal with them, I'll come off with flying colors. It is the same frigate as conveyed a fleet from Spithead round to Manila and the Indies, to which a brig that I commanded was attached; she tried a race with this very craft, and fided

the last time but one that I come out of Hall-fax.

"If that's the case, and the Growler can out-sail her, why run any risk? Why not walk away from her?"

"It would be walking away with a vengeance!—her guns would blow us to Jericho, before we could get a cable's length from her. No, you keep close—don't show yourself and I will manage them."

"No stepped upon deck again, as the boat from frigate came alongside, and an officer boarded them; then hastily advancing to meet him, the captain shook the hand of the officer heartily exclaiming:

"Lieutenant Talbot, I am rejoiced to see you."

For a moment the officer looked at him, somewhat surprised, and then, as if recollection had come to aid, returned the welcome of the hand, and answered:

"How are you, sir? Captain Heate, of the Aurora, I believe, are you not?"

"That is my name, sir, but not now of the Aurora; she laid her bones on Madagascar reef, and I am now in command of this brig; a fine vessel of two hundred and forty tons; sails like the wind, and indeed, as you know, beat your famed frigate in a race; she carries sail admirably, off wind and on; and as—"

"Hallo!—avast there!" interrupted Lieutenant Talbot, laughing; "why, your tongue is going as fast as a ship's scudding. Tell me where are you from, and where going? I must institute a little inquiry to satisfy our old captain—Where are your papers?"

"Oh, safe enough," answered Heate, his heart sinking rapidly; "come it is no use to show them; I can rattle them all off to you, and you'll trust me, I know. Brig Growler, Heate, master, bound from Halifax to New York, with coffee and sugar."

"I say, Heate," said Talbot, looking at him with a queer expression, at the same time pointing to two or three baskets of wine that stood in the long-boat: "does that look much like coffee and sugar?"

"Oh! I forgot that," replied Heate, interrupting him; "that's a private adventure of my own. Have the goodness to accept a basket for your own use, in remembrance of the good old times, when we sailed round the Cape of Good Hope in company; and also please to take another aboard, with respects to Captain Lovett; he has not forgotten me yet, I hope?"

"Oh, no; he frequently speaks of you?"

"So much the better—so much the better," interrupted Heate; "and Lieutenant Talbot, you'll find the wine to your liking. I'll pledge my word!"

The lieutenant was prodigal of thanks, and the very pink of politeness, when the present had been tendered, accepted, and stowed in the boat.

"I must leave you," he said, turning to the side—Heate's heart bounded; "and if you should ever come aboard the Sentinel, you shall find a hearty welcome. I will not put you to the unnecessary trouble of showing your papers; and Captain Lovett will beat me out when I tell who you are. As soon as I get aboard, I'll send a steamer up the mainmast, and when it reaches the truck you can go on. The moon is bright, and you can easily see it. I hope you will have a pleasant voyage. Good by!"

"Good by?"

Motionless, Captain Heate watched the boat until it was taken in by the frigate;—and the few minutes that ensued, previous to giving the signal, were to him moments of agony. Not until the steamer was half way up to the mast-head did he find relief; and scarcely had it touched the truck, before the brig was again put about and dashing on her course.

The foregoing sketch is no fiction; the main incidents are drawn from actual occurrences, and the author has it in his power to give real names, which he would do, but for the reason that several of the parties are yet living. Suffice it for the present to say, that one of the then owners of the brig is at this time engaged in a great commercial enterprise, which promises both to Europe and America the most beneficial results; and the resolve and fearless commander, who has figured as Captain Heate, is now residing upon one of the most pleasant farms in the vicinity of Newburyport, Mass.

How Samuel Canard, of the Atlantic Steam Navigation Company.

THE WITNESS.—Then the close organization of the troops and luxuriant organization of the whigs was alleged as the cause of defeat; but it is not hard to prove that the "boot was on the other leg." The truth is, the Democrats never went into an election without the most perfect preparation. We speak advisedly upon this point, and the efforts on the day of the election fully justify the remark. The whigs—we speak of this town—had five or six carriages constantly running for a good part of the day, bringing voters to the polls, while the Democrats employed but one or two and those for only about an hour.—[Bath Times.]

It is said that the death of Silas Wright was not caused by apoplexy, but *angina pectoris*, a disease of the heart, or the blood vessels in the chest. This is inferred from the fact that he walked and talked after his attack, and was left by his physician in a gentle perspiration, shortly after which he died suddenly.

Death by Tight Lacing. A young lady was found dead in her bed, at Mrs. near Caen, the other day—her death was occasioned by sleeping in tight stays to preserve her shape.

THE PLAYMATE, a Pleasant Companion for spare hours, is the title of a youth's magazine, published monthly by Crosby & Nichols, Boston.

FROM THE ARMY.

Very interesting letter from a distinguished officer to his correspondent in Washington.

TACUBAYA, Aug. 22, 1847.

We are now located in one wing of the Archbishop's palace, Chapultepec, with its magnificent grove, is before us, and we overlook the great city, surrounded by its lakes, and embosomed in its mountains. I never realized the beauty of the valley of Mexico until I reached this spot. To see it now, lighted by the soft, bright moon, with every village spire, hut, and mountain reflected in its silver lakes, you would think it even surpassed the description we read of it. There are also some stupendous works of art around us. But I can tell you nothing, for I have not yet been in the city, though I have looked at the gates. In the absence, then, of something more interesting, I shall have to tell you of the operations of the army.

On the 17th inst. Gen. Twiggs's division left Tacubaya. It was followed on the 18th by Gen. Quitman's, on the 19th by Gen. Worth's, and on the 20th by Gen. Pillow's. Gen. Scott left on the 21st, and Gen. Taylor on the 22nd. Our march over the mountains was unimpeded, except by remnants of guerrillas and resistance. Both disappeared as we approached, and we left their abandoned works as we found them. On the 11th Gen. Twiggs's division camped at Ayala, 15 miles from Mexico, on the 12th at San Mateo, on the 13th at San Mateo, on the 14th at San Mateo, on the 15th at San Mateo, on the 16th at San Mateo, on the 17th at San Mateo, on the 18th at San Mateo, on the 19th at San Mateo, on the 20th at San Mateo, on the 21st at San Mateo, on the 22nd at San Mateo, on the 23rd at San Mateo, on the 24th at San Mateo, on the 25th at San Mateo, on the 26th at San Mateo, on the 27th at San Mateo, on the 28th at San Mateo, on the 29th at San Mateo, on the 30th at San Mateo, on the 31st at San Mateo, on the 1st at San Mateo, on the 2nd at San Mateo, on the 3rd at San Mateo, on the 4th at San Mateo, on the 5th at San Mateo, on the 6th at San Mateo, on the 7th at San Mateo, on the 8th at San Mateo, on the 9th at San Mateo, on the 10th at San Mateo, on the 11th at San Mateo, on the 12th at San Mateo, on the 13th at San Mateo, on the 14th at San Mateo, on the 15th at San Mateo, on the 16th at San Mateo, on the 17th at 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THE INFLUENCE OF WOMEN.
Deprived of an equal voice in the government and councils of nations, and of the chance to reveal heroism and physical power on the battle field, woman has exercised but a partial influence over the fate of mankind. In savage, barbarous, and semi-civilized epochs, she has been scarcely more than a creature to bring forth the progeny and bear the burdens of the world.—Dreading and bowed down in the wigwams of the savage—following the trails of armies to kindle camp fires and prepare the food of the warrior—filling the fields of her little more civilized husband task master, or ministering from slave marts to the passions of pandering man, as Asia reveals here—what has woman been but a trampled flower, still beautiful in its ruin—plucked and cast by the moment its odor had produced safety. How unlike that glorious being who in the Garden of Eden was given to solace and beguile him—to solace and beguile him—to fill the spaces of solitude with the beauty of Heaven. Her weakness, innocence and confiding nature were then, what they should ever have remained, the elements of transcendent strength. In that fair and tremulous beauty which was Heaven itself, living the angels who forsake the earth when woman descended from her primitive being. Step by step was the full accelerated, until in ages but just gone, nothing but tears were left to assert the humanity of her race. Woman is only inferior to man in gross physical power—in all the fine and heroic sentiments, she is his equal if not his superior, and generations, in whatever age of darkness or light, take their hue and shape from the impress of her power. If she be trampled and debased, so will be her children—if she be pure and beautiful in heart and life, her progeny will be the same. In whatever condition, her original nature has never been fully obscured. Glens of the heroic and heavenly have shot out from the darkness—Spartan and Roman mothers have answered for the sex—and even the wilderness has not wanted lofty specimens of the true woman among the savages of our race. Give woman the place of companionship which God gave her, let her be the councillor and friend of man and the scale of our civilization will never drop on the side of humanity.

WAKED UP A WRONG CUSTOMER. On Sunday night as Mr. George E. Tyler was going from Boston to South Boston, he was accosted by a man who asked as to what time it was. Mr. Tyler pulled out his watch, (a gold one, valued at \$75) which was immediately seized by the man. The strong safety chain attached to the watch foiled the man in his efforts to get possession of the watch, and Mr. Tyler having recovered himself, struck the robber in the head which leveled him, and he then jumped upon and retained him until the watch arrived and took him into custody. He gave his name as Michael Malony. He was taken before the police Court, next morning, and committed to answer at the Municipal Court.

ANECDOTE OF THE GIRAFFE. The New Orleans Sun relates a humorous story of a very wild dressed and genteel looking person, who was curious to see the giraffe, and who stepped up to the man "wot receives the money," with: "Is the giraffe to be seen here?" "Yes, sir." "I want to see him." "Very well, sir." "It is fifty cents, isn't it?" "One dollar, sir; fifty cents for servants." "Well, I am a servant." "You a servant?" "Yes, sir." "The deuce! whose?" "Yours, sir—your humble servant." "Walk in, you take a seat. The joke is worth the price of admission."

It is calculated that the man who shaves every day cuts off nearly half a foot of beard per annum, and that a man eighty years of age will have removed in his life 27 feet of hair from his own countenance!

"Where did you come from," said Wilkie to a beggar from the Isle of Wight. "From the devil." "What's going on there?" "Much the same as here." "What's that?" "The rich take in, and the poor kept out."

To the Hon. County Commissioners for the County of Oxford.

THE undersigned Petitioners would represent that the County Road near Nathan Fuller, at East Dixfield, to Col. John J. Holman, at the Common, is a very bad road, and is very hilly and expensive to keep in repair, and subject to heavy delinquency in the winter time, would that, after proper preliminary proceedings, you would proceed to saw, and make such alterations, or new locations, on said road leading by John Thomas's as you shall think the public convenience and necessity require.

NATHANIEL KIRKBY & 20 others.
Oxford, ss.—At a meeting of the County Commissioners begun and holden at Paris, within and for the County of Oxford, on the first Tuesday of September, 1847.

On the foregoing Petition, Ordered, that the Petitioners give notice to all persons and corporations interested, that the County Commissioners will meet at the dwelling house of John J. Holman, in said Dixfield, on Tuesday, the second day of November next, at ten o'clock A. M., when they will proceed to view the route set forth in the Petition; and immediately after such view, at some convenient place in the vicinity will give a hearing to the parties and their witnesses, by causing attended copies of said Petition and of this Order of Notice therein to be served on the Clerk of said town of Dixfield, and by posting up like copies in three public places in said town of Dixfield, and by publishing the same three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat, printed at Paris, the first of said publications and each of the other notices to be made, served, and posted, at least thirty days before the said time of meeting, that all persons interested may then and there appear, and show cause, if any they have, why the prayer of said Petition should not be granted.

Attest—CHARLES ANDREWS, Clerk.
A true copy of said Petition and Order thereon.
Attest—CHARLES ANDREWS, Clerk.

C. W. WALTON,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
MEXICO, MAINE.

Notice to Road Builders.

LAND OFFICE,
BANGOR, Aug. 28, 1847.

THE undersigned will receive proposals for making a road through Dunn's Notch in Andover North Parish, in the County of Oxford, commencing at the foot of the Pine tree at the head of the Notch, and running in an Easterly direction a long the valley of the Ellis stream, not less than six rods to a large entrenched Birch tree, or to a point farther down said stream at the option of the contractor.

Said road to be made in the following manner, viz: 1. To be built as nearly as may be upon an uniform grade between said pine tree and said Birch tree, and if extended down the stream below the Birch tree, not to exceed, at any place, the average elevation between these points.

2. The travel path to be at least twenty feet wide inside the railing, except at the Lodge in the Notch, and at the second Lodge, where the same may be reduced to a width of not less than sixteen feet.

3. The outside of said road, wherever there is a ledge on which to found the same, to be built up with a permanent wall, to be raised to a level with the travel path—the same to be slightly drawn in at the top on the outside but to square on the inside—the base of the wall to be in no place less than six feet wide, and when it is necessary to raise the same more than fifteen feet high, it shall not be less than seven feet at the base—the backside of this wall to be filled with stone.

4. When the foundation is not suitable for sustaining such a wall at the above the same shall be built with a rubble wall.

5. Six stone culverts to be made under the road, covered with the same material as the wall, to be at least two feet square in the clear, and to be put in at those points most suitable to drain the road; here also to be made across the road between the culverts to turn the water to the ditch on the inside.

6. The inside of the road along the hill side to be eighteen inches lower than the outside and the earth on the inside bank to be so taken off as to prevent slides of the same from filling the road.

7. In the walls on the outside cedar posts not less than eight inches in diameter at the top are to be securely set deep in the ground, and to be at least six inches apart and to be covered with a layer of stones to be five feet high above the level of the road—the rails to be two in number, of cedar or ash, and to be six inches apart and to be firmly spiked on, one at or near the top of the posts and the other two feet below the upper rail.

8. The bed of the road to be well covered with earth or gravel so as to make the same safe and convenient.

The above road to be completed and finished on or before the first day of August next, to the acceptance of the Land Agent.

No payment will be made on the contract by the State until the road is so finished and accepted.

The proposals to be made by the contractor at Bangor, and should be forwarded as to reach that place before the first day of October next, which time is fixed for considering the same. Accompanying the proposals must be the names of two or more persons who guarantee the performance of the contract by the person whose offer may be accepted.

Persons wishing to contract and willing to make a better and more commodious road than is contemplated by the above Schedule for the sum appropriated (\$12000) are invited to submit a description of the road they would build, with their offers.

SAM'L CONY, Land Agent.

PIANO PORTES.

Newell & Niebuhr.

(Corner of Middle & Temple Streets, Portland.)

ARE Agents for the sale of **PIANO PORTES** from the celebrated Manufacture of **HALL, DAVIS & CO.** and are prepared to furnish instruments at Boston prices.

We shall keep constantly on hand an assortment of Piano Fortes, which will warrant equal to any in the country, and would gladly invite purchasers to call at our Ware Rooms, (corner of Temple street, first door on stairs,) and examine for themselves.

Old Piano taken in exchange.
Portland, August 8, 1847.

Norway Liberal Institute.

THE THIRD TERM.

This Institution will commence on Wednesday, the 8th day of September next, and continue twelve weeks.

Term fees, \$2.00; board, \$4.00 per week. Board, from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per week.

TEACHERS.
EDWARD P. HINDS, A. B., Principal.
JACOB W. BROWN, Vice Principal.
MISS MARY F. CHASE, Preceptor.
MISS MARY A. ANDREWS, Preceptor of Music.
MISS ANN N. DEBERRY, Teacher of Drawing and Painting.
LEAH H. BAKER, Teacher of Penmanship.
Norway, 6th of August, 1847.

Strayed or Stolen.

FROM the pasture of the subscriber on the 4th inst., a dark colored steer, three years old, very young built, and would measure about five feet ten inches. Whoever will return said steer, or give information where he may be found, shall be suitably rewarded.

CHARLES F. CHAMBERS.
Paris Hill, August 9, 1847.

BLANKS.

A Prime Assortment of Blanks, printed on good paper, kept constantly for sale at the Bookstore of B. W. WALTON.
Paris Hill, Dec. 29, 1846.

HEALTH! HEALTH!

Dr. Wood's
SARSAPILLA
AND
WILD CHERRY BITTERS.

THIS NEW AND VALUABLE EXTRACT OF SARSAPILLA AND WILD CHERRY has been used with great success for the removal of all kinds of humors, and for the cure of a variety of diseases, and is a healthy and strengthening the Liver, and all other organs.

HEALTH AND VIGOR to the whole system. In all cases of JAUNDICE, INDIGESTION, DYSPEPSIA, LOSS OF APPETITE, FEMALE COMPLAINTS, HABITUAL CONSTIPATION, SCROFULA, HEADACHE, LANGUOR, and all other diseases, it is a most valuable remedy.

DEPRESSION OF SPIRITS, which is so common a complaint in the SPRING and SUMMER season of the year, this Medicine has not its equal, and a single trial will convince the most incredulous of its peculiar virtues.

For further particulars the reader is referred to pamphlets which will be furnished by the Agents, showing the estimation in which this valuable Medicine is held by those who have used it.

CAUTION TO THE PUBLIC.
The particular and ask for **Dr. Wood's** **SARSAPILLA** and **Wild Cherry Bitters**, and receive the same, and be careful to see that the name of the Agents is on the wrapper, and that the name of the Agents is on the wrapper, and that the name of the Agents is on the wrapper.

Attest—CHARLES ANDREWS, Clerk.
A true copy of said Petition and Order thereon.
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C. W. WALTON,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
MEXICO, MAINE.

Fire Insurance.

THE undersigned having given special attention to the subject of insurance, and having secured the services of the best Mutual Companies, is now prepared to take risks on the most favorable terms, on all classes of Property liable to be destroyed by fire which can be safely insured on the Mutual Principle.

THE THOMSON MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, of Thomson, Me., is nearly 20 years old, and for the insurers the safe class of buildings and contents, is very safe and economical. It insures at the rate of 3 per cent, and its rates of premium vary from 2 to 4 per cent. It excludes Factories, Taverns, and shops of Joiners, Coopers, Cabinet-makers, Blacksmiths, and Stores, but insures the rest of intoxicating liquors. Insures but 1-2 the value of Stores in any case, does not insure the goods in the Police room for years.

THE PORTSMOUTH M. F. I. CO., of Portsmouth, N. H., insures the same class of property on very favorable terms, and also 3-4 the value of Stores and 1-2 the value of goods in Stores, also some of the safer classes of Shops and Mills. Policies run five years, and the rates of premium vary from 5 to 15 per cent.

THE ROCKINGHAM M. F. I. CO., of Exeter, N. H., embraces the like risks; also, Shops, Mills, Fanneries, and Manufacturing establishments of some kinds but excludes those of cotton, and insures the same from one to six years, and its premiums vary from 5 to 25 per cent.

THE ATLANTIC M. F. I. CO., of Exeter, N. H., takes the like risks; also, Shops, Mills, Fanneries, and Manufacturing establishments of some kinds but excludes those of cotton, and insures the same from one to six years, and its premiums vary from 5 to 25 per cent.

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THE THOMSON MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, of Thomson, Me., is nearly 20 years old, and for the insurers the safe class of buildings and contents, is very safe and economical. It insures at the rate of 3 per cent, and its rates of premium vary from 2 to 4 per cent. It excludes Factories, Taverns, and shops of Joiners, Coopers, Cabinet-makers, Blacksmiths, and Stores, but insures the rest of intoxicating liquors. Insures but 1-2 the value of Stores in any case, does not insure the goods in the Police room for years.

THE PORTSMOUTH M. F. I. CO., of Portsmouth, N. H., insures the same class of property on very favorable terms, and also 3-4 the value of Stores and 1-2 the value of goods in Stores, also some of the safer classes of Shops and Mills. Policies run five years, and the rates of premium vary from 5 to 15 per cent.

Important to Millers & Mill Owners.

BEAL & HALE'S
PATENT IMPROVED
CORN CRACKER.

A NEW AND SUPERIOR INVENTION
For Cracking Corn and Cobs previous to passing through mill-stones.
For Grinding the same suitable for Providence. Also, for Cracking Corn alone, suitable for Hominy, and the use of Stables.
Also, for grinding Dark, Apple, Sumach, Plaster, &c. &c.

THIS valuable Invention surpasses all others of the kind, in Compactness, Durability, Uniformity of Work, and Economy of Power. Its weight is much less than the common vertical machine. It will wear (with the same unguo) longer than three of those now in use, and grind the Corn much quicker, and with less waste of material. It will do what the Corn is damp, or even green, without cleaning, which no other mill will do. It is generally driven by a four-horse belt—it may be driven by gear, however, without inconvenience—by which it can be run faster than any other mill of the kind. It is also adapted to the miller, and can be run by a single horse. It is a most valuable addition to the miller's stock, and will be found to be a most economical and profitable investment.

TO THE VARIOUS Agents, and others, who are interested in the above mentioned Invention, we are informed that the following certificates, selected from a large number which have been kindly furnished us.

Messrs. Beal & Co.—Glenburn, Dec. 8, 1846.
We have put in operation the Cracker which we purchased of you; and we are happy to say that it has just the thing needed for the purpose for which it is designed. We think that we can grind cobs and corn after passing them through your Cracker, nearly as quick as we can through the mill-stones, and with the oil finished cracker. We would say, however, that we find it quite a saving to let our corn run through in the same way, for, by its feeding, the eye of the mill is kept clear, and the work is done in a superior manner in which it was not, in a mill where one is so much obliged to stop and clean the eye of the mill. Yours, respectfully,
RICHARD BEANS,
WM. R. WHITELY.

Messrs. Beal & Co.—Glenburn, Dec. 8, 1846.
The honor of using one of your Corn Crackers for the past six months, perfectly to my satisfaction, and to the satisfaction of my customers, and I have no more to say than that they are very good, and I have no more to say than that they are very good, and I have no more to say than that they are very good.

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CONSUMPTION CURED!

TRUTHFUL SUCCESS OF
BUCHANAN'S
Hungarian Balm
OF LIFE.

THE GREAT ENGLISH REMEDY FOR
COLDS, COUGHS, ASTHMA,
AND CONSUMPTION!

THIS most celebrated and infallible remedy for Colds, Coughs, Asthma, or any form of Pulmonary Consumption, is the Hungarian Balm of Life, discovered by Dr. Buchanan of London, England, test for upwards of seven years in Great Britain and on the continent of Europe, and introduced into the United States, under the immediate superintendence of the inventor.

The astonishing success of the Hungarian Balm, in the cure of every form of Consumption, warrants the American Agent in soliciting for treatment the most possible cases that can be found in the community—cases that seek relief in vain from any of the common remedies of the day, and have been given up by the most distinguished Physicians, as incurable and invincible. The Hungarian Balm has cured, and will cure, the most desperate cases. Its nonpoisonous nature, but a standard English Medicine, of known and established efficacy.

TO THE CONSUMPTIVE.
Every family in the United States should be supplied with Buchanan's Hungarian Balm of Life, not only to counteract the consumptive tendencies of the climate, but to be used as a preventive measure in all cases of colds, coughs, spitting of blood, pain in the side and chest, irritation and soreness of the lungs, bronchitis, difficulty of breathing, hoarse voice, night sweats, emaciation and general debility, asthma, influenza, whooping cough, and croup.

In case of actual disease of the lungs, or seated consumption, it is the only source of long and happy consumption. It is the only source of long and happy consumption. It is the only source of long and happy consumption. It is the only source of long and happy consumption.

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